

BizNews

december 2015



Vice Mayor Dave Trinkle cuts ribbon as Delegate Sam Rasoul of the 11th District looks on.

ALDI Opens in City of Roanoke

Retail grocer brings 10 full-time positions and savings to the grocery bill

ALDI, one of the nation's low-price grocery leaders, launched its first Roanoke store on Thursday, November 19 with a ribbon-cutting, giveaways and a large crowd of curious Roanokers.

The new 21,000 square foot store located at 1521 Hershberger Road, brings 10 full-time positions to the community. ALDI has a long track record of being an employer of choice, offering generous wages and benefits that are higher than the national average for the retail industry. The company also offers employees a 401(k) program with matching contributions. Store hours are Monday - Saturday from 9 am - 8 pm, and Sundays from 11 am - 7 pm.

Headquartered in Batavia, Illinois, ALDI now has more than 1,500 stores across 32 states, employs over 20,000 people and has been steadily growing since opening its first US store in Iowa in 1976. The no-frills grocery shopping experience at ALDI focuses on customers first by delivering high quality food, responsive customer service, everyday low prices and a quick-and-easy shopping experience with only four to five aisles housing all the essentials.

Spotlight on Business ~



TINK'S PLACE



One of Roanoke's newest retail shops, Tink's place is located at 115 Salem Avenue, SE in downtown Roanoke.

Looking for a unique holiday gift for a favorite someone? Tink's Place has unique gifts within this beautiful space, many locally crafted, for men, women and children.

For more information, stop in for a visit, access the website at www.tinkspplace.com or call 540.344.2324.

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ALDI Opens in City of Roanoke • from page 1

ALDI has been recognized for having high customer satisfaction that leads its customers to recommend ALDI to friends and family. In fact, in a recent Market Force Information consumer survey, ALDI was chosen as one of the top three favorite grocery store chains in America, as well as named the leading low-price grocery store for the fourth consecutive year. The company generates savings for its customers through a low-overhead, focused approach that includes:

- **Volume purchasing:** By concentrating its full buying power on 1,300 of the most commonly purchased grocery items in the most common size, ALDI secures sizable discounts.
- **Exclusive brand products:** More than 90 percent of products at ALDI are their own exclusive brands rather than national brands.
- **In the ALDI Test Kitchen,** ALDI ensures that its products meet or exceed the quality and taste of national name brands.
- **All ALDI food products** are backed by the Double Guarantee.

If for any reason a customer is not 100 percent satisfied with any ALDI food product, ALDI will gladly replace the product AND refund the purchase price.

- **Special Buys:** Each week, ALDI offers 20-30 food and non-food products at a great value that include everything from small kitchen appliances and seasonal items to outdoor furniture and gardening tools.
- **No hidden costs:** ALDI has a streamlined approach that avoids non-essential services such as banking, pharmacies and check cashing. Those savings result in lower prices for consumers.

ALDI has been serving customers for nearly 40 years, letting smart shoppers save up to 50 percent on the most commonly purchased grocery items, including a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, without the hassle of clipping coupons or buying in bulk. Smart shoppers know they can save time and money at ALDI without sacrificing quality. ALDI plans to serve more than 45 million customers per month by 2018.

ALDI was named the 2014 Retailer of the Year by Store Brands Magazine for its strong commitment to value and innovation-focused private brand product development.

For more information about ALDI, visit www.aldi.us.



Curious Roanokers gather for the ALDI opening on November 19, 2015.

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 **VirginiaTech**
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Virginia Tech Roanoke Center

Save the Date
More information to come.


ROANOKE

To Register: www.cpe.vt.edu/ilean

Brandon Oaks LifeCare Community Breaks Ground on New Cottage-Apartment Hybrid Homes

Construction of Pine Ridge, a new 12-unit cottage-apartment hybrid on the campus of Brandon Oaks LifeCare Community, begins soon! A ceremonial groundbreaking was held on Thursday, December 3, 2015 to celebrate the new addition to the Brandon Oaks campus.

Pine Ridge will be an addition to the existing Pines neighborhood, built in 2010. Similarly, Pine Ridge will feature improved insulation, water-saving plumbing and energy efficient HVAC, lighting and appliances. The twelve luxury apartment homes will range in size from 1,500 to 1,700 square feet. Other features include underground parking, three-season porches and patios, a community room and gym. All of these features are in addition to the inclusive amenities and award-winning healthcare available to all Brandon Oaks residents. This project has a positive impact on the local economy due to Brandon Oaks' commitment to utilizing local architects, construction companies and purchasing materials from other local businesses. Roanoke-based architecture firm, SFCS and contractor, Lionberger Construction Company were selected to spearhead the project.

Marketing for Pine Ridge began earlier this year to gauge interest for the potential new building. Within the first few meetings, multiple people placed deposits on what will become Pine Ridge. Currently, 8 of the 12 available units are reserved. "The Pine Ridge expansion has had such excitement surrounding it since we first announced the plans to build, and we are simply thrilled for those who have already reserved their new residences. Some of the key deciding factors for these future residents included the personalization of their new home prior to construction, the beautiful and peaceful setting of Pine Ridge, as well as the security and peace of mind that the Brandon Oaks lifestyle offers," stated Mary Whelchel, Director of Sales and Marketing for Brandon Oaks. Brandon Oaks has seen tremendous growth in the past five years: the construction



Stakeholders representing the community, Brandon Oaks and Virginia Lutheran Homes participate in the December 3 groundbreaking for Pine Ridge at Brandon Oaks.

of Pine Crest in 2010, the opening of the state-of-the-art rehabilitation expansion - the John P. Fishwick Center - in 2014 and the groundbreaking of Pine Ridge this year.

In 2016, Brandon Oaks will expand its service offerings to include home healthcare and home care to the greater Roanoke community. Brandon Oaks Executive Director, Joe Hoff commented, "As a well respected provider of senior living and healthcare, it is our duty to provide the best quality living accommodations for our current and future residents". Hoff added, "Our growth over the past 5 years is proof of our commitment to constant improvement and innovative approaches to senior living".

Brandon Oaks is a non-profit LifeCare retirement community, operating under the sponsorship of Virginia Lutheran Homes. Brandon Oaks offers residents independent living, assisted living, nursing care and therapy.



Featured BizLink ~ Winter Weather

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stayinformed/winter>

Winters in Virginia can mean snow or subfreezing temperatures, as well as strong winds or even ice or heavy rain storms. Winter weather can knock out heat, power and communications services to your home or office, sometimes for days at a time.

Prepare for upcoming Winter Weather by visiting this link and learning more!



Holiday safety should be on your "to do" list during this season. Also on this link, you may review the important safety tips from the Virginia Department of Forestry to help you celebrate safely and reduce the risk of fire.



City of Roanoke Seeks Artists or Artist Teams to Transform Belmont and Southeast Neighborhoods

Deadline January 15, 2016

The Roanoke Arts Commission is seeking artists or artist teams' qualifications to design, fabricate and install a mural or other suitable art under the Tazewell Avenue I-581 bridge. The artwork shall reflect the history and spirit of the Southeast and Belmont Neighborhoods.



The RFQ and information on the City of Roanoke's Public Art Program, photographs of the site and a map of area calculations can also be viewed at <http://www.roanokeva.gov/760/Arts-Culture>. Click on Current Calls to Artists, then Gateway Art Under the Bridge.

The artwork shall serve as a gateway to, as well as reflect the history and spirit of the Southeast and Belmont Neighborhoods. This project is open to all artists and artist teams, age 18 and over, who are residents of the United States.

The RFQ and related documents may be obtained during normal business hours from the Purchasing Division located in the Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building at 215 Church Avenue, SW, Room 202. This document may be viewed and/or downloaded from the City of Roanoke Purchasing Division's Vendor Self Service website at <https://vss.roanokeva.gov> or from the Purchasing Division's website at www.roanokeva.gov/purchasing. If you have any problems accessing the documents, you may contact Purchasing at (540) 853-2871 or purchasing@roanokeva.gov.

The public art program is funded by a Percent for Art Ordinance, established by the City of Roanoke as a way to fund public art in city neighborhoods and public places to reflect its vibrancy and heritage. The fund is comprised of one percent of the budgets of certain projects in the city's capital improvement program. Public art policies and recommendations are guided by the 15 volunteer members of the Roanoke Arts Commission, with final approval from Roanoke City Council.

For more information, contact Roanoke Arts and Culture Coordinator, Susan Jennings, at 853-5652 or susan.jennings@roanokeva.gov.



Wish to be a BizNews Subscriber?

Simply email lisa.soltis@roanokeva.gov with your contact information including name & email address.

Also, check us out on Facebook or visit City of Roanoke Department of Economic Development at www.BizRoanoke.com.

Check Out Biz Roanoke on RVTV Channel 3!

BizRoanoke is a monthly program highlighting economic activity and programs within the City of Roanoke.

Tune into RVTV Channel 3 to learn more or follow this link to our most recent show: <http://bit.ly/1Nlact7>.

Happy Holidays from your City of Roanoke Department of Economic Development!

The City of Roanoke offices will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

City offices will reopen for business at 8 a.m. on Monday, December 28.

Starting a construction project? We'll help you move forward.

Whether you are just starting a business or are well established and now seek to expand or relocate, your success is a critical component to the City of Roanoke's prosperity, economic stability and community vitality.

Starting or growing your business typically requires a significant investment of both financial and personal resources and it is our desire to assist you in making the most informed decisions possible to protect those resources. Our goal is to both inform you of the economic development services and programs which you may be qualified to receive, and to help you navigate the regulatory process required to ensure that your business has a positive impact on the community, is safe to occupy, and opens as quickly as possible.

The Department of Economic Development in conjunction with the Department of Planning, Building & Development has developed a business reference guide. Please note that as each business and its existing or proposed location is unique, so too will be the procedures you may need to undertake to comply with City and Commonwealth of Virginia codes and regulations. This guide is offered as a general overview and is not an exhaustive list of all the regulations which may apply to your specific business. We urge you to contact our departments as necessary to ensure a successful business launch, expansion or relocation.

For questions regarding the programs and services offered through the Department of Economic Development, located at 117 Church Ave., SW, please call 540.853.2715. For questions regarding city permits and requirements, please contact the Permit Center, located in Room 170 of the City of Roanoke Municipal Building at 215 Church Ave., SW, or call 540.853.1090.

City staff is available to meet with you, your contractors and your design team before you select a location for your business and before any applications are completed to help you understand and meet permitting requirements.

To access the Business Reference Guide visit <http://www.roanokeva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1186>.



Roanoke Named a Top Digital City for 15th Time



On November 5, 2015, e.Republic's Center for Digital Government announced the top-ranked cities for its 2015 Digital Cities Survey. The City of Roanoke was ranked second among the cit-

ies in the 75,000 to 124,999 population category. The annual survey recognizes leading examples of cities using technology to improve services and boost efficiencies. Roanoke has maintained its status as a Top Digital City since 2000.

Now in its 15th year, the Digital Cities Survey is part of the Center for Digital Government's Digital Communities program, which focuses on collaboration among cities, counties, and regions. Open to all U.S. cities, this year's survey questions targeted which initiatives cities were most proud of in the areas of citizen engagement, broadband, operations, and data. Responses are reviewed and judged based on a set of criteria and how well the cities implemented these services across the entire city. The survey honors cities in four population classifications: 250,000 or more; 125,000 to 249,999; 75,000 to 124,999; and fewer than 75,000.

The top-ranked cities were recognized for their achievements on Nov. 5 during the National League of Cities 2015 Congress of Cities and Exposition in Nashville, Tenn. For a list of all winners, please [click here](#).



Bonny Branch

What do you love about Roanoke?

"I love Roanoke because first, most of my awesome, loving, and supportive family is here. Secondly, because it keeps growing leaps and bounds in fun and exciting and cool ways. And lastly because of the abundance of artistic, outdoors, cultural and work opportunities."

Bonny Branch
Owner, Bonny Branch
Movement Arts

Governor McAuliffe Announces \$2.43 Billion Bond Package to Fund Key Research and Economic Development Projects

The initiative represents historic investments in research and state parks

Governor Terry McAuliffe announced on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget he will introduce on December 17th will include a \$2.43 billion bond package to support key capital projects that will enhance Virginia's technological research and economic development infrastructure.

The bond package represents the largest research-oriented capital investment in the Commonwealth's history as well as the largest state investment in Virginia's state parks.

The chief focus of the bond package will be strengthening research and workforce development in high-demand fields at Virginia's four-year institutions of higher education and community colleges.

The bond package will also include funding for other key priorities like strengthening the Port of Virginia, serving Virginia veterans, enhancing Virginia's state parks, transforming Virginia's approach to juvenile corrections and protecting the Commonwealth's natural assets.

Speaking at the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center, Governor McAuliffe said, "The bond package I will include in my budget will provide funding for targeted projects that will all contribute to our efforts to grow and diversify our Commonwealth's economy. If we are going to build a new Virginia economy, we must make smart investments in research, higher education, veterans, public safety, tourism and environmental stewardship that will yield returns for decades to come."

Details of the bond package included in Governor McAuliffe's budget with several projects benefitting Roanoke may be found by clicking [here](#). Projects at The Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, as well as Roanoke Higher Education Center are both parts of this package.

For more information, visit
<https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=13672>



Training & Events~

Wednesday, December 16, 2015
RBTC HOLIDAY SOCIAL

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Jingle, jingle, mix & mingle!!



All of the members, partners, and friends of the Roanoke Blacksburg Technology Council are on our nice list, and we hope you will join us at the end-of-the-year holiday social. Registration for this holiday gathering will include cheer, appetizers, raffle prizes, and cookie decorating. A drink ticket is included followed by a cash bar.

The Roanoke Blacksburg Region has had a great year and it is now time to reflect and celebrate!

Location: Roanoke College - Wortmann Ballroom

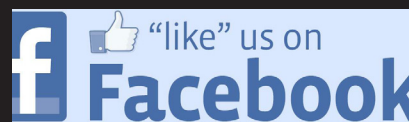
Cost: \$20 RBTC Members; \$25 Non-Members

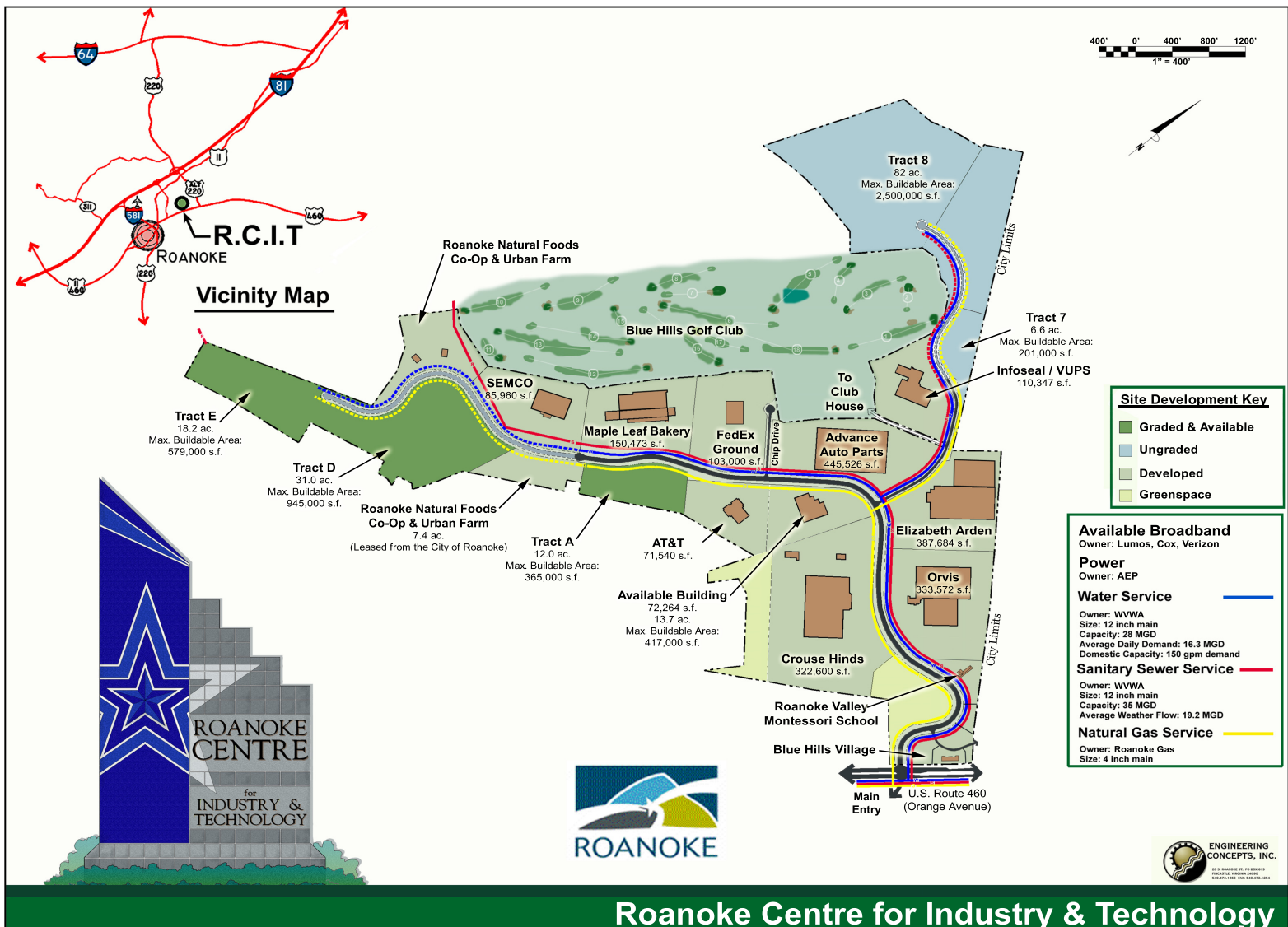
Information/Registration:

Contact 540-443-9232

DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Roanoke
Department of
Economic
Development
is on Facebook!
Please "like" us
today!





Roanoke Centre for Industry & Technology

Development Opportunities in the City of Roanoke

- 440 acres designed for light manufacturing
- Enterprise Zone location, with City of Roanoke and state incentives
- Located on Highway 460 close to I-81 and I-581
- Home to regional, national and multinational corporations
- All utilities available
- Protective covenants to ensure investment
- Five sites available
- Three graded and ready to go
- Sites range from 6.6 to 31 acres

For more information, contact the Dept. of Economic Development at 540.853.2715 or email econdevl@roanokeva.gov.

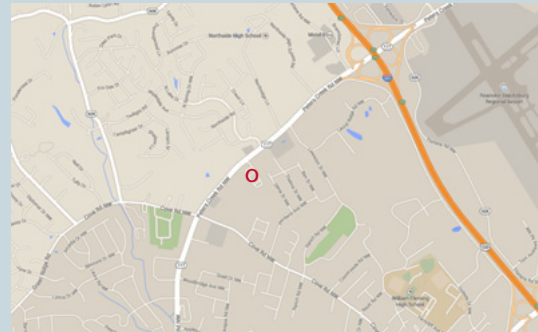


Tract D ~ Roanoke Centre for Industry and Technology

Development Opportunity

Property for Sale Located at 2903 Peters Creek Road, NW

For Sale: \$1,695,000



The City of Roanoke (owner) is accepting proposals for the purchase of three adjoining parcels located at 2903 Peters Creek Road, NW; Tax Map Numbers 6410104, 6410105 and 6410106. The combined acreage is approximately 11.8 acres, a portion of which is zoned Commercial Large Site (conditional) and the remaining portion is zoned Commercial General.

Conveniently located just minutes from Interstates I-581/220, and I-81, the site offers bi-directional access to Peters Creek Road, NW. Current traffic count is approximately 18,000 vehicles per day.

For complete property details please follow the link to the City of Roanoke's GIS system and use the Search/Query function by entering the following parcel ID Tax Numbers: 6410104, 6410105 and 6410106.

GIS link: <http://gisre.roanokeva.gov/>

How to Propose:

Proposals for the property must contain the following elements and be accompanied by the required signature form available on the Economic Development website under Available Properties, Peters Creek Road.

Proposals for the property must contain the following elements:

- Identification of the property and any adjacent property involved in your development
- Concept plan of the intended development including use, location and size of any buildings, number of units and a timeline for the completion of the project
- Description of the qualifications and experience of the proposer/developer
- Business Plan and Financial Plan for the project
- Offer amount for the property

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated for compatibility to the City of Roanoke's Comprehensive Plan and Neighborhood Plan. The proposer will be contacted after sufficient time for staff review.

Please submit your written proposal to:

Rob Ledger, Manager, Department of Economic Development
117 Church Avenue, SW Roanoke, VA 24011

Or submit by email to: econdevl@roanokeva.gov.